

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 197038
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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DRAFTED BY AF/E:KPGARLAND:JJ
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R 182156Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, MASS, ET, SO, US

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON HORN OF AFRICA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4983

1. GIST OF AUGUST 15 GUIDANCE WAS ACTUALLY USED AT
AUGUST 17 NOON BRIEFING. YOU SHOULD GIVE TEXT OF THE
NOON BRIEFING TO MOFA RATHER THAN PRESS GUIDANCE TRANS-
MITTED BY WIRELESS FILE.

2. RELEVANT PORTION OF AUGUST 17 NOON BRIEFING TEXT
FOLLOWS:

QUESTION: DOES THE UNITED STATES YET HAVE A POSITION ON
WHETHER OR NOT SOMALI FORCES ARE OR ARE NOT IN ETHIOPIA?

ANSWER: WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT THOSE FORCES HAVE
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BEEN FIGHTING. WE NOTICE THAT TASS HAS MADE THAT ASSER-
TION AND, SINCE THERE ARE RUSSIAN ADVISORS ASSISTING
SOMALIA WE EXPECT THAT THEY PROBABLY HAVE FAIRLY GOOD
INFORMATION.

QUESTION: DOES THAT AFFECT OUR WILLINGNESS IN PRINCIPLE
TO SELL WEAPONS TO SOMALIA?

ANSWER: I THINK WE MADE IT FAIRLY CLEAR THAT, FIRST, WE INTENDED ANY WEAPONS THAT WERE GOING TO GO TO SOMALIA TO BE USED FOR THEIR LEGITIMATE INTERNAL DEFENSIVE NEEDS. SECOND, THAT SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THIS FIGHTING AND OUR EXPRESSED INTEREST IN SEEING IT BROUGHT TO AN END, THAT WE ARE AT THIS POINT NOT YET PREPARED TO ANNOUNCE WHEN WE WOULD EFFECT THIS AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO SUPPLY WEAPONS TO SOMALIA. WE WOULD NOT WISH TO DO SO AT A TIME OR IN A MANNER WHICH MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONFLICT IN OGADEN. SO, WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF BEING INVOLVED ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER OF THAT CONFLICT.

QUESTION: IN REFERENCE TO THIS, DO WE HAVE A LIST OF THE COUNTRIES OR THE MERCENARIES OR WHOEVER OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES IS ENGAGED IN THIS FIGHTING IN ETHIOPIA?

ANSWER: WE HAVE SEEN REPORTS THAT HAVE COME FROM ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF FORCES REPRESENTING OUTSIDE NATIONALITIES INVOLVED. WE DO NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT CONFIRMATION THAT SUCH FORCES ARE, IN FACT, IN THE FIGHTING.

I MEAN THERE ARE, AS I HAVE SAID, SOME MILITARY ADVISORS WITHIN THE TERRITORY OF THE BELLIGERENT NATIONS, BUT I DON'T EVEN HAVE ANY REPORT ON THEIR POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TION.

QUESTION: ON EITHER SIDE?

ANSWER: I DO NOT.

QUESTION: NEITHER SIDE?

ANSWER: I DO NOT.

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